

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1*76
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0267

EXDIS

JAKARTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH
SU*J: CONFUCIUS, LIN PIAO AND ANTONIONI

REF: HONG KONG 1528

1. TWO STORIES RECENTLY PICKED UP IN PEKING SHOULD BE USEFUL IN ANALYZING RECENT EVENTS IN CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN AND ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE COURSE. WE HAVE HEARD FROM TWO SOURCES THAT ON JANUARY 18 A "CIRCULAR LETTER NUMBER ONE" (POSSIBLY A CENTRAL COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE OR CHUNGFA) WAS ISSUED OVER MAO'S PERSONAL SIGNATURE AND SENT TO SUBORDINATE UNITS. THE DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE STUDY GROUPS OF TSINGHUA AND PEKING UNIVERSITIES AS GUIDANCE FOR THE CAMPAIGN. THE DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY STATES THAT THE CAMPAIGN WILL GO THROUGH EIGHT STAGES AND EACH STAGE WAS CAPTIONED WITH A SLOGAN OR A BANNER BY WHICH IT WOULD BE RECOGNIZED.

2. THESE SLOGANS APPARENTLY ARE THE HEADLINES OF MAJOR IDEOLOGICAL ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE "PEOPLE'S DAILY". THE DAY THE FIRST ATTACK ON ANTONIONI APPEARED AN INTERPRETER AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, IN AN APPARENT SLIP OF THE TONGUE, SAID "I SEE WE HAVE REACHED THE THIRD STAGE." WHEN
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QUESTIONED, HE REFUSED TO ELABORATE FURTHER, BUT ANTONIONI AND WHAT HE SYMBOLIZES SEEMS TO BE PART OF THE PLANNED CAMPAIGN. THE CANADIANS THEORIZE THAT THE OTHER TWO SLOGANS MAY BE "CARRY THE STRUGGLE TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO

AND CONFUCIUS THROUGH TO THE END" AND "WORKERS PEASANTS AND SOLDIERS ARE THE MAIN FORCE IN CRITICIZING LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS." BOTH OF THESE HAVE BEEN PROMINENTLY HEADLINED RECENTLY IN "PEOPLE'S DAILY".

3. THE OTHER REPORT WAS PASSED TO US BY THE BRITISH AND ALSO CONCERNS ANTONIONI. THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY CHINESE SOURCE THAT CHOU EN-LAI PERSONALLY BROUGHT THE INITIAL ATTACK BEFORE THE POLITBURO. THEY RATE THIS REPORT AS VERY SENSITIVE AND HAVE ASKED THAT WE HOLD IT CLOSELY.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF VERIFYING EITHER OF THE STORIES, BUT BOTH HAVE A CERTAIN RING OF AUTHENTICITY TO THEM.

JENKINS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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